**NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ IRG: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**DO NOW: October 7, 2010**

**Write down today’s AIMS from the top left corner of the board:**

1. Today we will begin reading a myth. Thousands of years ago, myths were used to explain certain things about the world that SCIENCE now explains. For example, there were myths to explain how gods fought and it caused the changing of the seasons whereas today, scientists tell us that seasons are caused by the earth rotating. As another example, there were myths to explain things like why there are waves in the ocean whereas today, physicists like Mr. Liu would use science to explain that.

**Write down ONE thing about the world or about nature that science helps us understand today** – and that myths might have been used to explain in the past.

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1. The myth we are going to read today is called “Echo and Narcissus.” Based on this title, make a prediction about what might happen in this myth.

Who might the characters be?

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What might the conflict be?

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Where might it happen (setting)?

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What might the theme be?

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**Background on myths**

A myth is a story with a purpose. It tries to explain the way the world is, such as why there is thunder or where snow comes from. Myths also try to explain the relationship between gods and humans. Even though the events in a myth are usually impossible, they try to send a message or teach a lesson that has an important social or religious meaning.

People have always tried to figure out common questions like who made the universe or questions like what causes a storm. Myths were created when people tried to make sense out of these questions. For early people myths were like science because they explained how things work.

**Background on Ovid**

The poet who wrote the myth of “Echo and Narcissus” was named Publius Ovidius Naso. Ovid lived in Rome in 43 B.C. – 2053 years ago when there was almost no science or technology compared to today! He wrote many, many books of poetry and his writing influenced some of the most famous writers of all time including Chaucer, Shakespeare, Dante, and Milton.

Most of Ovid’s writing involved Greek and Roman mythology. These myths were the religion of his time, but they looked very different from religions of today. Greek and Roman mythology, there are many, many gods instead of one. Zeus was the most powerful, but there were gods to control all different parts of the world from the god of the sun to the god of the ocean.

The Greek and Roman gods and goddesses interacted with people frequently. Sometimes they descended from heaven to speak with people. Sometimes they helped humans by blowing a wind to push their boats to their destinations. Sometimes they punished humans by putting curses on them like removing their ability to talk. Sometimes the gods even had relationships and children with human beings!

The myth of “Echo and Narcissus” comes from Ovid’s book *Metamorphoses*. The word “metamorphoses” means “changing shape.” Every myth in the *Metamorphoses* involves someone or something changing shape*.*

**NOTES on MYTHS**

*The purpose of myths:* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**WRITE TWO DIFFERENCE**

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| **OVID’S TIME** | **TODAY** |
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